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Hartlepool Port Sanitary Authority.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

FOR THE

Year Ending 31st December, 1925,

BY

Arnold S. L. Biggart,

M B., CH.B.

WEST HARTLEPOOL:
E. HUDSON, Printer and Stationer, 75, Church Street.

Hartlepool Port Sanitary Authority,

1925-26.

CHAIRMAN - - - R. H. DAVISON, J.P.

West Hartlepool Representatives:

T. CLARKSON, J.P., Westbourne Road, West Hartlepool.
J. BROWN, J.P., Grange Road, West Hartlepool.
K. McD. CAMERON, "Arnisdale," West Hartlepool.
T. F. THOMPSON, J.P., Wilton Grange, West Hartlepool.
R. COLEMAN, J.P., Mainsforth Terrace, West Hartlepool.
W. T. RYAN, Wilton Avenue, West Hartlepool.
J. W. WILSON, J.P., Surtees Street, West Hartlepool.
C. S. WAHLSTRAND, Greatham.
A. HYDE, "Kenmara," Park Road, West Hartlepool.

Hartlepool Representatives:

J. R. BUTTERWICK, J.P., "Kirkham," Hartlepool.
W. SCOTT GIBB, J.P., "Moor" House, Hartlepool.
G. WILLIAMSON, 2, Beaconsfield Square, Hartlepool.
R. H. CARTER, J.P., Temperance Terrace, Hartlepool.
R. H. DAVISON, J,P., "Shincliffe," Hartlepool.
W. O. ATKINSON, Commercial Street, Hartlepool.

FIXED DAYS OF MEETING.

At the Municipal Buildings, West Hartlepool.

May 21st, 1925.	September 17th, 1925.	January 21st, 1926
June 18th, ,,	October 15th, ,,	February 18th, ,,
July 16th, ,,	November 19th, ,,	March 18th, ,,
August 20th, ,,	December 17th, ,,	April 15th, ,,

Each day at 3-0 p.m.

General Purposes Committee:

All the Members of the Authority are Members of this Committee.

House Committee:

All the Members of the Authority are Members of this Committee.

Officers:

Clerk—C. GILBERT BUNTING, Solicitor, 28, Church Street, West Hartlepool.
Medical Officer—A. S. L. BIGGART, M.B., Ch.B., 116, Scarborough Street West Hartlepool.
Surveyor—F. DURKIN, Municipal Buildings, West Hartlepool.
Inspector—O. P. MITCHELL, C.S.I., 24, Town Wall, Hartlepool.
Deputy Inspector—J. T. NICHOLSON, Hartlepool.

ANNUAL REPORT.

West Hartlepool,
February, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hartlepool Port Sanitary Authority.

Gentlemen,

In compliance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. I herewith submit to you the Annual Report of the work done at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, and at the Port, for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

1.—Hospital.

During the year ending 31st December, 1925, there were 228 cases admitted into the Hospital as compared with:—

264	cases in	1924	150	cases in	1918
161	,,	1923	61	,,	1917
85	,,	1922	68	,,	1916
155	,,	1921	95	,,	1915
201	,,	1920	127	,,	1914
217	,,	1919	229	,,	1913

Of these 228 cases, there were .—

Scarlet Fever	201	cases compared with	225	in 1924
Diphtheria	21	,,	24	,,
Typhoid	3	,,	7	,,
Scarlet Fever and Measles	2	,,	1	,,
Erysipelas	1	,,	2	,,

Of these 228 cases, there came from :—

County Borough of West Hartlepool	194
Borough of Hartlepool	33
Rural District	1

4 deaths occurred during the year, giving a percentage of 1·77 as compared with 2·65 in 1924 and 3·1 in 1923.

The deaths were made up as follows :—

2 from Scarlet Fever.
1 from Diphtheria.
1 from Scarlet Fever and Measles.

The average age of the patients was 9·74 years as compared with 9·66 years in 1924 and 11·03 in 1923. There were 101 male patients and 127 female patients.

Hospital Staff.—This consists at present of a Matron, Sister, 2 Probationer Nurses, Laundress, Cook, Housemaid, 2 Ward Maids, Sewing Maid (Temporary), and a Porter.

Hospital Accommodation.—There are 50 beds at the Hospital most of which have been in use throughout the year. For Scarlet Fever there are 3 wards, for Diphtheria there is 1 ward, and there is also a ward for Typhoid Fever. During the past year certain necessary repairs have been carried out. The whole question of hospital accommodation is at present under discussion by the Port Sanitary Authority in conjunction with the Corporations of West Hartlepool and Hartlepool. As regards the site of the Hospital I am of the opinion that it is an excellent one as the situation is healthy and stands well above the sea level and it gets a maximum amount of sunshine. The ground, being sandy, dries very quickly even after heavy rain and this enables the patients to be out of doors practically daily. The Hospital is convenient of access to both Boroughs and is situated in a locality not frequented by the Public. The area is in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health but the number of beds available is not.

II.—SHIPPING.

During the year 1925 no case of sickness was admitted to your Hospital from vessels arrived at the Port.

Small Pox—

No case of this disease has occurred on board ships arrived here since 1919.

The number of vessels visited by me during the year 1925 was 86, and there was one re-visit, as compared with 140 visits and 4 re-visits in 1924.

The causes of Inspection may be tabulated as follows :—

18 vessels reported by either your Inspector or by H.M. Customs Officers as having sickness on board, either on arrival or during the time of discharging cargoes, or as having had sickness or deaths duriug the voyage.
65 vessels from Infected or Suspected Ports where it was considered necessary to examine on arrival the crews or passengers.
3 Vessels having sanitary defects.
1 re-visit.

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The following shows the amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year.

		Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected.		Number reported Defective.	No. of Orders Issued
				Medical Officer of Health.	Sanitary Inspector.		
From Foreign	Steamers	721	784,408	6	664	21	21
	Sail	11	2,631	0	7	0	0
	Motors	36	9,271	0	28	1	1
		768	796,310	6	699	22	22
Coast-wise	Steamers	588	389,145	0	358	6	6
	Sail	5	862	0	0	0	0
	Motors	14	1,924	0	2	0	0
		607	391,931	0	360	6	6
Total Foreign and Coastwise		1,375	1188,241	6	1,059	28	28

Cases of Illness on Board Vessels, Reported or dealt with during the Year.

Date.	Name of Vessel.	Where From	Nature of Illness.	Remarks.
January 16th	" Bengona " S	Bilbao	Gastritis	Fireman, Treated on b'd
" 22nd	" Betty Maersk " S	Gefle	Rheumatism	Chief Officer, Treated on board
Feb. 19th	" Plehanoff " S	Immingham	Tonsillitis	2nd Engineer, Treated on board
" 24th	" Macedonia " S	Bergqvara	Influenza	Fireman, Treated on b'd
March 13th	" Framnas " S	Norrkoping	Gastritis	Seaman, Treated on b'd
April 11th	" Trelissick " S	Port Pirie via Rotterdam	Influenza	2 Seamen, Treated on board
" 29th	" Gustafsberg " S	Westervik	Injuries	Seaman, Treated on b'd
May 19th	" Doravore " S	Westervik	Gastric Catarrh Diphtheria	Fireman, Treated on b'd 2 Cases recovered
July 2nd	" Pendennis " S	Uleaborg	Catarrh	Seaman, Treated on b'd
" 8th	" Brockley " S	London	Rheumatism	Seaman, Treated on b'd
" 10th	" Cornwood " S	Viloorde	Injuries	Seaman, Treated on b'd
" 24th	" Liana " S	Ipswich	Gastritis	Seaman, Treated on b'd
" 26th	" City of Delhi " S	Sunderland	Tonsillitis	Seaman, Treated on b'd
Sept. 10th	" Vestmar " M/V	Risser	Gastritis	Seaman, sent to Howbeck Infirmary.
" 14th	" Ora " S	Arendal	Rheumatism	2nd Mate, Treated on b'd

Date.	Name of Vessel.		Where From	Nature of Illness.	Remarks.
October 6th	" Westra "	S	Leningrad	Influenza	2nd Officer, Treated on board
,, 8th	" Silverlight "	S	Axelvik	Injuries	Donkeyman, Treated on board
,, 13th	" Quiloa "	S	Sunderland	Malaria	Three Lascars, Treated on board
,, 21st	" Koursk "	S	London	Bronchial Catarrh	Seaman, Treated on b'd
Nov. 16th	" Magnar "	S	Calais	Venereal	Seaman, Treated on b'd
Dec. 4th	" Celimena "	S	Dunkirk	General Catarrh	Seaman, Treated on b'd
,, 18th	" Haugland "	S	Bjorko	Rupture	Fireman, Treated on b'd

Precautions against the Introduction of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Small Pox and Other Infectious Diseases.

In this connection a strict look out is maintained on vessels coming from Russian Ports, from certain Ports on the Baltic littoral, and from Mediterranean and Eastern Ports. Lists of "Infected" and "Suspected" Ports are periodically issued to Customs Officers, Pilots, and Dockmasters. During the year no vessel arrived from a Plague infected Port. With regard to the cleansing and disinfestation of verminous seamen and their belongings this Authority, by arrangement with the West Hartlepool Corporation, has the use of their Burn Road Cleansing Station. During 1925 no ships' crews arrived here requiring such treatment.

The Principal Trade of the Port for 1925, was:

Imports. Pit Props, Deals, Battens, Boards, Timber, Wood Pulp, Iron Ore, Zinc Ore, Tin Shearings, and Eggs.

Exports. Coal and Coke.

Pit Props, Deals, Battens, Boards, and Timber are imported from Russian, Norwegian, Swedish and Baltic Ports. Pitch Pine from Mobile and Pensacola, Wood Pulp from Sweden and Norway, Iron Ore from Spanish, French and Mediterranean Ports, Zinc Ore from Australia, Tin Shearings from Holland, Eggs from Denmark.

Coal and Coke are exported to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Baltic Ports, France, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Germany, Greece and North African Ports, also to London and Channel Ports.

PORT SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Report of vessels inspected during the year from 1st January, 1925, to 31st December, 1925.

		1925	1924
British Steamships	....	517	492
,, Sailing Vessels	....	0	0
,, Motors	....	0	0
Foreign Steamships	....	505	697
,, Sailing Vessels	....	7	19
,, Motors	....	30	44
		1,059	1,251

Revisits made to vessels for Fumigation, to see various Regulations carried out, to vessels from Infected Ports, etc.	....	36	202
		1,095	1,453

Table showing the number and nationalities of the vessels inspected during the year ending December, 1925.

Nationality.	Steam	Sail	Motors	Totals
Belgian	1	0	0	1
British	517	0	0	517
Dantzic Free State	2	0	0	2
Danish	73	0	3	76
Dutch	10	0	0	10
Esthonian	6	1	2	9
French	19	0	0	19
German	81	1	2	84
Greek ...	5	0	0	5
Hungarian	1	0	0	1
Italian	2	0	0	2
Latvian	7	0	0	7
Lithuanian	1	0	0	1
Memel Free State...	1	0	0	1
Norwegian	127	2	18	147
Portugese	1	0	0	1
Russian	5	0	0	5
Swedish	140	3	5	148
Spanish	23	0	0	23
Totals	1,022	7	30	1,059

The following Table shows the number of vessels of each Nationality inspected and the percentage having sanitary defects.

	Inspected.	Insanitary	Percentage
Belgian	1	0	0·0
Dantzic Free State	2	0	0·0
Danish	76	2	2.6
Dutch	10	1	10·0
Esthonian	9	1	11·1
French	19	3	5·2
German	84	2	2·3
Greek	5	2	40·0
Hungarian	1	0	0·0
Italian	2	0	0·0
Latvian	7	1	14·2
Lithuanian	1	0	0·0
Memel Free State	1	0	0·0
Norwegian	147	4	2·7
Portuguese	1	0	0·0
Russian	5	0	0·0
Swedish	148	2	1·3
Spanish	23	6	26·0
Total Foreigners	542	24	4·4
British	517	4	·7

The nuisances dealt with mainly concerned dirty crew quarters. All the requirements are known to have been complied with at this port.

Unsound Food Regulations, 1907.

During the year 1925 several consignments of Danish Eggs arrived from Denmark and coastwise. These upon examination were found in excellent condition. Several small cargoes of potatoes arrived coastwise in good condition.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

On only one vessel was it found necessary to take action under this Act during the year 1925. The method adopted was that of poisoning: poisonous bait being laid throughout the vessel by the Durham County Council's Rat Officer who is appointed by this Authority to destroy rats when required. As the vessel left the port next day the result of the action was unknown. No examination of rats was made during the year.

Summary of Sanitary Inspectors' Monthly Reports.

Date of Report. 1924.	Description of Vessels.			Nationality.		Trade Engaged in		Total Vessels Examined.	Sanitary Conditions		Written Notices Served.	Verbal Notices.	Total Written and Verbal Notices.
	Steam	Sail	Motor	B'tish	F'r'gn	Coast	F'r'gn		Good	Bad			
January 14th ...	46	0	1	16	31	15	32	47	45	2	0	2	2
February 18th ...	102	0	1	53	50	37	66	103	99	4	0	4	4
March 17th ...	68	0	3	34	37	26	45	71	70	1	0	1	1
April 19th ...	51	0	1	29	23	20	32	52	50	2	0	2	2
May 20th ...	92	2	4	40	53	39	59	98	96	2	0	2	2
June 17th ...	72	0	2	33	41	17	57	74	73	1	0	1	1
July 10th ...	83	3	5	47	44	32	59	91	87	4	0	4	4
August / September 17th	169	1	5	89	86	50	125	175	172	3	0	3	3
October 14th ...	114	0	1	57	58	38	77	115	114	1	0	1	1
November 19th ...	95	1	2	41	57	29	69	98	91	7	0	7	7
December 16th ...	87	0	3	51	39	38	52	90	90	0	0	0	0
December 31st ...	43	0	2	27	18	19	26	45	44	1	0	1	1
Total for 1925 ...	**1022**	**7**	**30**	**517**	**542**	**360**	**699**	**1059**	**1031**	**28**	**0**	**28**	**28**
Total for 1924 ...	**1192**	**18**	**41**	**492**	**759**	**386**	**865**	**1251**	**1187**	**64**	**0**	**64**	**64**

In conclusion my best thanks are due to the Collector of H.M. Customs and Excise, to the Chief Preventative Officer of Customs and the Waterguard Staff, to Captain Nicholson and to the respective Dock Masters, and to Pilots for the kind courtesy and assistance which has been received by the Officers of your Authority.

I also beg to thank Masters, Owners and Brokers for their aid and co-operation in enabling me to carry out the various duties devolving upon the administration of the Port Sanitary Authority.

ARNOLD S. L. BIGGART, M.B. Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.